



Published every Saturday by JOHN MITCHELL, JR., at 511 N. Fourth Street, Richmond, Va.

JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - EDITOR.

All communications intended for publication should be sent so as to reach us by Wednesday.

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One Copy, one year.	\$1.50
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One Copy, six months.	.80
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Single Copy	.10

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Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Va., as second class matter.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1908.

MR. ROOSEVELT AND THE BLACK BATTALION.

It was a truly deplorable spectacle presented to the people of this country and to the nations of the world, when President Roosevelt, the great stickler for truth and immaculate authority relative to the authenticity and reliability of facts deliberately sent in a special message to the Congress, endeavoring to establish by admittedly perjured testimony the guilt of the members of Companies B, C and D of the Twenty-fifth United States Infantry.

Mr. Roosevelt solemnly declared in his special message that there was no doubt as to the guilt of these men, and that the evidence established that fact beyond the limits of civil or dispute and then in the next few sentences states that he has had detectives employed, men, who were so illiterate that they could not sign their own names and then one of these same men professed to give verbatim the whole conversation that took place between Boyd Conyers, an ex-soldier and himself.

It is also established that Conyers never made such statements as were accredited to him and that Mr. Roosevelt in his blind zeal to prove these men guilty of a crime that 167 of them have sworn that they did not commit has descended to the level of a disreputable ward politician and he has given abundant justification for Senator Joseph Benson Foraker's significant remark when he said:

"When this thing is gone to the bottom, all honest men will be ashamed of it."

Senator Foraker spoke "by the cards," so to speak. Read the following telegraphic report:

"Monroe, Ga., Dec. 16.—Boyd Conyers, of this village, a young mulatto formerly a private in Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry, one of the companies discharged from the army for alleged participation in the Brownsville raid, has denied all statements attributed to him in the affidavit of William Lawson, the Negro detective, who claims that he secured a confession from Conyers.

"Conyers has been visited by four detectives since his discharge from the army and claims that every statement he has made to them has been made in the presence of some citizen of Monroe and that none of these statements contained any information which would tend to incriminate himself or anyone else. Conyers declares that he knows nothing of the perpetrators of the Brownsville outrage.

"Conyers talked freely of the matter. He says a Government official visited him in October and offered him immunity from arrest in the event he made a clean breast of the affair, but Conyers stated to Brown that he was not in possession of the information he desired. Sheriff Arnold was present at this interview and corroborates the statement of Conyers.

W. G. Baldwin and A. H. Baldwin also visited Conyers in November. Fred D. McCarthy, a notary public, was present at the interview of A. H. Baldwin. Mr. McCarthy states that the statement of Conyers to Baldwin contained nothing tending to show that Conyers was connected with the riot or knew anything definite about it."

Then read this from the Atlanta Georgia Constitution of the 15th inst.

"Serious reflections were cast upon the reliability of the evidence submitted by agents for the War Department by Sheriff E. C. Arnold of Walton county, last night.

"In a long distance telephone conversation he declared he had known Boyd Conyers all his life, and did not believe him guilty of any outrage at Brownsville.

"I was present at all the conversations held between Herbert J. Brown and Boyd Conyers and worked as hard as possible to get at the real facts in the case. Conyers did not state the things attributed to him. He lived here before he enlisted in the army; has been here since his discharge and I believe what he says about the Brownsville case. He would not tell me a lie about it. He has a good reputation among our citizens.

"Sheriff Arnold further ridiculed the idea that Conyers had attempted suicide after his alleged confession to Lawson. In referring to that statement in the detective's report he said:

"Conyers had some trouble with his sweetheart in 1904 and threatened to kill himself. Soon afterwards he entered the army and either forgot all about his threat or thought better of it. Nothing like that has ever happened.

"I did everything possible in connection with Lawson and Brown to establish the guilt or innocence of Conyers. I wanted to get the straight of it, and the boy has told me this same story over and over without variations.

"In the conversation with Brown he was asked to name the members of the baseball club of the troop. He did so. Next he was asked to name the roughest and toughest members of the company. He gave their names too. That was all he ever told any detective.

"The story of his having gone to Gainesville with Lawson on June 15 is untrue."

The public can draw its own conclusions. We shall analyze fully the latest phase of the situation and find if we can some explanation for this most remarkable attitude on the part of one of the most distinguished statesmen in all of this world.

President Roosevelt has descended from the high pedestal of fame that he once occupied and it is becoming plainly evident that he has outlived his usefulness. It is unfortunate that the first of the year is not the time set for him to hide himself in the "wilds" of Asia instead of in the jungles of Africa. Egotism in the form of too much self esteem has evidently warped his judgment and paralyzed the channels of conservatism that should keep him steady during the closing months of a rapidly ending administration.

The colored man of intelligence who would uphold Mr. Roosevelt in the face of this his latest and most unpalatable outbreak is both deaf, dumb and blind so far as great principles are concerned and hopelessly warped in his estimate of the possibilities of his own people.

**\$100.00 Endowment Paid.**  
Richmond, Va., 1908.  
This is to certify that we have received from John Mitchell, Jr., Grand Worthy Counselor of the Grand Court of Virginia, Order of Calanthe, (\$100.00) One Hundred Dollars in payment of the death claim of Sister Maggie Smith, who was a member of Virginia Court, No. 166 of Richmond, Va.

Signed—Margaret Smith, Beneficiary.  
Per M. S. B.

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This is to certify that we have received from John Mitchell, Jr., Grand Worthy Counselor of the Grand Court of Virginia, Order of Calanthe, (\$100.00) One Hundred Dollars in payment of the death claim of Sister Maria Brown, who was a member of Fairmount Court, No. 125 of Richmond, Va.

Signed—William C. Brown, Administrator.  
Per M. S. B.

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Signed—Marietta Webster, Beneficiary.  
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Signed—Walter E. Johnson, Cora L. Mayo, Beneficiaries.  
Per M. S. B.

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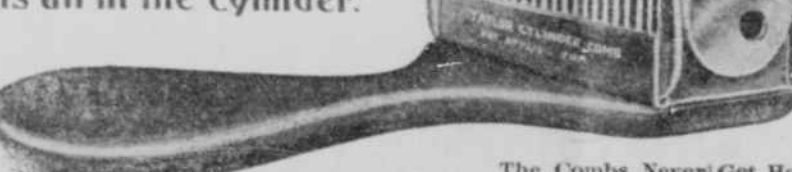
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